

The Mountain Advocate.

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Shame on You, Finley

Under the heading of "AN AMUSING LITTLE CUSS" Brother Finley, of the Whitley Republican, puts forth an editorial assailing the candidacy of Hon. J. C. Bird for Circuit Judge. The head lines, as well as the entire editorial is, not only a disgrace to the Whitley Republican, but is repugnant and offensive to all decent and fair-minded people. It is lamentable to know that any self-respecting man would condescend to write and publish such an article in order to satisfy a personal grudge. It is also deplorable to know that no sort of campaign can be pulled off in Whitley County without all this vituperation on the part of Charley Finley through his paper. It is still fresh in the minds of the voters of the 34th Judicial District that he waged the same sort of campaign against J. B. Snyder two years ago, and which really kicked back and injured the cause he was espousing. To write and publish such a small article is far beneath the dignity and decorum of any man who would hold the respect of clean, thinking people. We believe that such an article is only calculated to react and kick back on the writer, and that it will create sympathy for the one assailed instead of doing him injury.

It will be remembered that it is an old grudge Mr. Finley has against Mr. Bird and that the public was thoroughly disgusted with a long series of the same sort of low articles only a few years ago.

It is to be hoped that Mr. Bird will absolutely ignore this assault and treat it with the silent contempt with which such an attack is entitled to be treated. J. C. Bird is too well known, especially in Whitley County, to be slandered by such assaults and he will have the voters of the 34th Judicial District will appreciate his refusal to engage in a filthy controversy, such as was forced upon the public once before. The voters in the district will understand that this assault upon the eligibility and qualifications of Mr. Bird, is only a matter of politics. They also know that Mr. Bird had too much sense to announce for an office for which he was not eligible. Mr. Bird has practiced law more than double the time required by the Constitution to make him eligible, and while he may not have devoted all his time exclusively to the practice of the law, at the same time we doubt if either of the other candidates for Circuit Judge has depended solely upon his practice for a living. In fact we are advised that the contrary is true. Section 180 of the Constitution of Kentucky defines the legal qualifications of a Circuit Judge as follows:

(Exact Copy.)—"No person shall be eligible as Judge of the Circuit Court who is less than thirty-five years of age when elected, who is not a citizen of Kentucky, and a resident of the District in which he may be a candidate two years next preceding his election, and who has not been a practicing lawyer eight years."

We have no doubt but that J. C. Bird comes as near measuring up to these qualifications as any other candidate for Circuit Judge. There are also other qualifications for Circuit Judge which the Constitution and the Statutes do not mention. As to Mr. Bird's qualifications in general we believe the voters of the District can be trusted to pass upon them about as well as anybody else, and from the reports we get from the District they are willing to risk him. We believe further that such assaults as the one launched by Charley Finley in Whitley Republican will only increase Mr. Bird's majority.

Oil In Knox County.

Esmeraldo Oil Co. are pumping their No. 1 Campbell on Indian Creek, which is reported doing 25 barrels.

P. J. White's No. 1 Brown on Indian Creek will be shot with 300 quarts Monday.

Esmeraldo Oil Co's No. 2 Campbell is drilling at 250 feet.

J. M. Holliday's No. 1 Jarvis on Collins Fork of Goose Creek in sand with strong flow of gas.

Dimetris & Co. No 1 on Cables farm drilling at 1450 feet and expect to reach Big Injun sand tomorrow.

F. L. Cherry has a rig up on his No. 1 Burns, two miles east of Oneida, Clay county and will begin spudding Monday.

Central Oil & Gas Co. with their No. 1 Hutchinson expect to drill in the Esperson sand Monday. Much gas has been encountered in this hole and indications are favorable for a good well.

The Empire Gas and Fuel Co. and the Kentucky Oil and Gas

Co. both New York corporations, are understood to be making active efforts to get a franchise to serve the cities of Knoxville, Tenn. and Williamsburg, Ky., with natural gas. These efforts are following the recent drilling of a gas well near Williamsburg, Whitley county, which has an estimated daily production of 2,000,000 cubic feet. The cities which probably use gas from the newly opened field are within a radius of 40 miles. The Williamsburg gas well is about 20 miles distant from the large gas-gas which have been supplying Barbourville for ten years and in the area intervening between the two fields there is lively scramble for territory for further testing.

The Empire Oil and Gas Co. one of the richest independent concerns in the country, is said to be anxious for gas franchises in many Kentucky cities. The company recently opened offices at Winchester under the management of F. B. Tomb, and has a staff of 15 geologists in Kentucky. The company last week started tests on its property near Barbourville. The company is said to be negotiating with Judge F. D. Samson, for McCreary county property, geologists having recently visited that district.



J. C. BIRD
FOR CIRCUIT JUDGE

To the Voters of the 34th Judicial Dist. of Kentucky:

Before I decided to become a candidate for Circuit Judge, both the support and the opposition I would have been carefully considered by me. While I believed that my candidacy would be looked upon with favor by a large per cent of the voters of the District, yet I expected opposition from a little coterie of would-be political bosses. I had no hope or desire that my election should depend upon the influence of a set of town politicians, living in wealth and arrogance within the shadow of the court house. That set pretends to own and to be able to deliver votes in bulk, like potatoes in a barrel. They never lend their influence or deliver the votes however, without expecting and demanding the highest market price in the shape of favors for themselves from the officers who have accepted their help. I want to say now that that set was not consulted by me as to whether I should run this race. I knew I could not be free from suspicion in my judicial acts and opinions if it was believed that I owed my election to them. I preferred to take my chances with the common voter rather than to owe my election to those who would expect to be repaid by favors from the bench. I felt that if I were Circuit Judge I wanted to be absolutely free to decide every question that came before me without any thought of whether one of the parties was for me or against me in the election.

I knew that if the voters out in the precincts were for me that I would be elected in spite of the opposition of the self-appointed political monarchs whose only interest in the voters is to trade on them for their own selfish advantage. It was through the assurance that I had from the voters themselves that I decided to make this race. It is only upon such help that I am relying. It is the individual voters who think for themselves and who vote as they think upon whom I am depending. I do not expect the votes of those who let others do

their thinking and their voting and who can be delivered in bulk like so many car-loads of cattle.

About the only argument the opposition to me urges is that I am not qualified for Circuit Judge. I am well satisfied to leave that question to the voters who know me and my qualifications. I am prepared to meet every objection of that nature whenever it appears important to do so. My qualifications can be fully established by those who know me. It might appear unseemly for me to enlarge upon my qualifications yet I might say that when I was elected county attorney of Whitley County certain politicians urged that I was not qualified, but the voters paid no attention to this cry then, but elected me and I made good. This attack upon my qualifications is not in good faith. It is only a pretext.

The crowd who urge this oppose me simply because they cannot use me if I am elected. If this same crowd knew of a man in the District now that could poll one more vote than I could, regardless of whether he knew a syllable of law or had ever made a motion in court, they would get behind him and proclaim him to be the greatest man and the best lawyer in the District.

When I entered this race I did so with a full appreciation of the importance of the duties of the office to which I aspired. For me to say that I am well qualified for Circuit Judge is saying a great deal. There are few men, if any, who possess all the qualifications, legal and otherwise, that a Circuit Judge should have. While I do not claim to be the best lawyer in the District, yet I believe that with my knowledge of the law, my experience, and by hard work and application that I can make a good Judge. I only promise, if elected, to do my very best.

If I am elected Circuit Judge, it will be my constant purpose to administer the office in such a manner as will insure justice to all classes alike. If any interest, private or corporate, wants more than that, they want more than they are entitled to, and if there is any interest in the District that expects special favors from the bench, that interest should support some other candidate for Circuit Judge.

I have tried to set out my views herein and I solicit the support of all who share them with me.

Yours very truly,
J. C. BIRD.

A LEADER In The Race For Superintendent of Schools

The school which Miss Emma Morris has been teaching for the last nine months closed on the fifteenth of May and on the sixteenth she started out bright and early to work in the race for Superintendent of Schools. While she has already done some very effective work and made much headway, she has been hampered because of her school work which she would not neglect. But now she can devote every day and hour of her time until after the election; and she expects to do everything possible and leave no stone unturned to win the nomination. People who stand for qualification and a clean, honest, progressive administration of the school affairs are undeniably coming over to her side. They realize their interests and the welfare of their children are perfectly safe in her hands. She has received a number of suggestions from people in different sections of the county about making their neighborhood at once and she will try to get around as soon as possible. —Adv.

In this edition of the Advocate we publish the announcement of Hon. J. C. Bird, of Whitley county, for the Republican nomination for Circuit Judge to be voted for in the August Primary, 1917.

Mr. Bird is favorably known to a large number of voters of McCreary county, having been county attorney of Whitley county when this county was created. The people of that section of McCreary county, which was formerly a part of Whitley, have not forgotten the faithful and efficient manner in which he performed the duties of that office until he was legislated away from them. He was always a good runner in this section and we believe that his old supporters and friends here will again be willing to come to his support in this race.

He is a clean man, an able lawyer and has a large following of relatives and personal friends in all three of the counties comprising the district, and we predict, that he will muddy the waters for somebody if he is not nominated Aug. 4th. —McCreary County Advocate.] Adv

Press Comments On

HON. J. C. BIRD

Corbin Times, Jan. 12, 1915.

In this issue of The Times Hon. J. C. Bird, of Williamsburg, makes his announcement for the Republican nomination for Circuit Judge of the 34th Judicial District. His announcement will most assuredly be very gratifying to the citizens of Corbin and vicinity, since his persistent and successful efforts in putting down lawlessness in and about Corbin is still fresh in the memories of the people here where his work was so effective during his administration as County Attorney of Whitley county.

It will be remembered that when he went into office as County Attorney that such state of lawlessness and terrorism existed on the outskirts of Corbin that the women and children of South Corbin were afraid to come to town in daytime for fear of being insulted or assaulted by drunken and lawless men while passing that section known as the "Pines." Immediately after he went into office Mr. Bird and Squire Anders rented a room in South Corbin for a court room in which they held court once a week. Mr. Bird prosecuting bootleggers and desperados, actually at the risk of his life, for two or three months, until they were driven out or put in jail. By this time some of the good citizens of Corbin, having seen what had been done, invited him to move his operations into the corporation. Thereafter Squire Anders and Mr. Bird held regular terms of court in the City Hall until bootlegging was reduced to a minimum. Old foxes in that business who had heretofore never been reached, were brought to justice by him and put in jail or broken up.

Mr. Bird has a large following of friends and relatives in this District, and it goes without saying that his announcement means a race. Granting that there will be other candidates for the honor, who will have backing. It is a notorious fact that J. C. Bird has a following that nobody can take away from him. His qualifications for Circuit Judge are beyond question, being a graduate from one of the best law schools in the country, and having had several years' practice in the courts. His record as County Attorney will compare favorably with that of any man who ever served in that capacity. He is unexcelled as a campaigner and orator and is a good organizer. We predict that if he is not nominated for Circuit Judge on Aug. 4, the man who receives one more vote than he does will be the nominee.

W. R. LAY, Acting Pres. J. S. MILLER, V. Pres. J. R. JONES, Cashier

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April 7, 1916 - - - \$391,510.11
April 7, 1917 - - - 471,790.05

NET GAIN in ASSETS FOR YEAR \$80,279.94

If you are interested in farming, call at our bank and get some bulletins written by experts on "Home Gardening", "Diversified Farming", "Apple Culture" and "Grasses". We plan to furnish the farmers with one bulletin each month on timely farm topics during this year. Don't fail to get your copy.

J. M. ROBSION, President. ROBT. W. COLE, Cashier.

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